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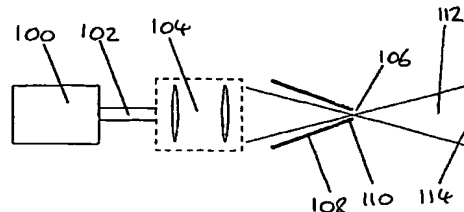
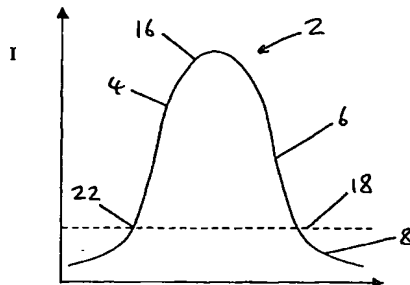
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(54) Title: SURFACE TREATMENT OF CONCRETE



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and an apparatus for treating a surface for the removal of a surface portion thereof, comprising the steps of producing a beam of laser light and obscuring a low power density part of the laser beam before irradiating a surface location with the laser light so as to remove the surface portion. The apparatus for treating a surface for the removal of a surface portion thereof, comprises a laser source for producing a laser beam for irradiating a surface location with laser light so as to remove the surface portion wherein a low power density part of the laser beam is obscured and does not impinge upon the surface. The obscuration may be effected by a shadow mask and/or a reflective mask.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	US 2002/134770 A1 (YOUNGMAN KEVIN ET AL) 26 September 2002 (2002-09-26) paragraph '0048! - paragraph '0054!; figure 4	1, 2, 4-27
X	US 5 780 806 A (PANG HO-MING ET AL) 14 July 1998 (1998-07-14) the whole document	1, 2, 4-27
X	GB 2 316 528 A (COMMISSARIAT ENERGIE ATOMIQUE) 25 February 1998 (1998-02-25) the whole document	1, 2, 4-27
X	US 6 056 827 A (SHIMIZU KOUKI ET AL) 2 May 2000 (2000-05-02) the whole document	1, 2, 4-27
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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 653 762 A (BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PLC) 17 May 1995 (1995-05-17) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-27
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 107 (P-1179), 14 March 1991 (1991-03-14) & JP 03 002595 A (SCIENCE & TECH AGENCY), 8 January 1991 (1991-01-08) cited in the application abstract -----	1-27